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EXTENSION OF THE RANGE OF  
*COTTUS ALEUTICUS*

A number of specimens of *Cottus aleuticus* was taken by the writer and his assistant, Mr. Clarence Lucas, in the Stillaguamish River which flows into Puget Sound at Stanwood, Wash., in the Skagit River and some of its tributaries, and in the Nooksack River, during the summer of 1925.

This apparently is an extension of the range southward. It has been recorded from streams from Unalaska southward to Departure Bay, Vancouver Island.

*Cottus aleuticus* is readily distinguished from *Cottus asper*, which is also found in the streams flowing into Puget Sound, by the more uniform color of the former. In other words, the color does not vary as much as it does in *C. asper*, but it is uniformly darker and always in the same pattern, while in *C. asper* the colors and pattern both vary to closely resemble the bottom. *C. aleuticus* is more slender than *C. asper*. This character is so striking that almost any one familiar with "bull heads" would recognize the difference between the two sculpins. Closer examination shows the tubes at the openings of both pairs of nostrils which is characteristic of the species.

Our specimens were caught with hook and line from deep pools in the rivers.

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ON THE IDENTITY OF THE KILLIFISH  
*FUNDULUS MEEKI* EVERMANN  
WITH *FUNDULUS LIMA* VAILLANT

In 1894\*, Vaillant reported on the fishes collected in lower California by M. Léon Diguët. A short description is given of *Fundulus lima*, n. sp., "à San Ignacio de Caracamande (centre de la Sierra de la Basse-Californie), dans les bassins et mares de l'ancien établissement des Jésuites." Although Jordan and Evermann\*\* included Vaillant's other new species in their addenda, *Fundulus lima* seems to have been forgotten.

In 1908, Evermann described *Fundulus meeki* "from a small stream flowing from large springs at San Ignacio, Lower California." There is practically nothing in the short account of *F. lima* that would indicate specific distinctness from Evermann's fish. In fact, both authors particularly mention the peculiar spiny edges of the scales of the males, although of course other species of *Fundulus* share this character. It would seem that *Fundulus meeki* must be placed in the synonymy of *Fundulus lima* Vaillant.

It may here be remarked that the paratypes of *Fundulus meeki* said to have been deposited at The American Museum of Natural History and at Indiana University are to be found in neither institution.

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\* Bull. Soc. Philom. Paris, ser. 3, vol. vi, pp. 69-75.

\*\* Fishes of North and Middle America, vol. 4, 1900.

LONGEVITY OF  
*TERRAPENE CAROLINA* (LINNÉ)

There has come to my attention a "shell record" of the age of *Terrapene carolina* (Linné), the common box turtle, which bears every ear-mark of authenticity. Its legitimacy as a record is further vouched for by Dr. George P. Englehardt of the Brooklyn Museum, and Mr. Wm. T. Davis of Staten Island, N. Y.

Mr. Walter Jones Weeks was born in 1822 at Yaphank on an isolated part of Long Island. He was a naturalist and a taxidermist, remembered by his children often to have cut his initials on turtle shells.

Twenty-five years ago, Dr. Englehardt and Mr. Davis occasionally observed in the vicinity, living specimens of *Terrapene* bearing Mr. Weeks initials together with dates as old as 1840. In June of 1926 a specimen marked in 1843 was caught in a field adjoining the old homestead, now occupied by a daughter. It was released again by Miss Weeks and in August was found dead. The flesh was allowed to weather from the shell which is preserved. On the plastron of the specimen, a male, and obviously ancient, is inscribed

W. J. W. 1843 XXI.

Mr. Weeks was twenty-one years old in 1843; at an age when the practice of cutting his initials on turtle shells would be likely. The letters on this specimen are worn with age, but are not dilated as would be the case if the creature had grown in size after being marked. It was therefore fully grown, probably not less than five years old when marked. This would indicate an age of 88 years attained by this individual.

Another animal marked by her father in 1844 was brought to Miss Weeks during the past year. It was set at liberty.

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## THE HOG-NOSED SNAKE OR PUFF ADDER

On April 11 of this year, the writer was a member of a field trip to Wayanokie, Midvale, N. J., under the leadership of J. Otis Swift, Nature editor of the *New York World*. The day was rather cool for wild life.

About three o'clock in the afternoon while following a by-road that connected the public road with the woodlands, we came across three snakes. On examining them we found they were Hog-nosed Snakes or Puff Adders *Heterodon platyrhinus*. One of them, a female, had been killed sometime earlier in the day. Several stones were lying about it and one rather large stone covered part of the body. This snake was badly mutilated. In places the body was almost severed and not far from the vent it was cut open. Two males, both alive and uninjured had mated with the dead female. They were both fastened at the vent of the female and when we took a stick and picked her up and tossed her about, they did not pull loose. Without doubt the males were not around when the female was killed or they would have met the same fate that she did. One of the males was very active and kept flattening out its body and hissed or puffed. The other one was much less active. The inactive male was quite dark with scarcely a trace of color pattern. The other male was rather bright.

Gale Griswold, a boy in our party threw his sweater aside when we were examining the snakes and forgot it when we started on our journey. A short time afterward he went back to get the sweater and reported to us that he met a farm boy at the place who said he killed one of the snakes earlier in the day and that the other two must have come to her afterward. Others who saw these snakes were Clifford B. Griswold of East Orange, N. J., Fred Wright of Orange, N. J., William G. Taylor of Bloomfield, N. J., and Andrew Scarlett of South Orange.

It is strange that a male snake would mate with

a dead female and stranger still that two males would mate with her at the same time. Where the writer lived, when a boy, in southwestern Pennsylvania, there is a common saying among country people that if you kill a snake its mate will go to the body of the dead one. I recall, when a small boy, my grandfather killed a copperhead. When he went a few hours later to show it to the family, another copperhead was lying with it. I once saw the same thing with a pair of Milk Snakes, one came to its dead mate. I would like to know if other naturalists have made similar observations. This would probably occur only during the mating season.

OLIVER PERRY MEDSGER

#### AN EXTENSION OF THE RANGE OF *SCELOPORUS WOODI* STEJNEGER

Stejneger and Barbour (Ck. List No. Amer. Amph. Rept., 1923, p. 59) define the known range of *Sceloporus woodi* as "Central and East Central Florida, South-eastern Coastal Region to Hallandale, Dade County." This species when described by Dr. Stejneger (Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., 31, 1918, p. 91) was believed to be confined to "Central and East Central Florida," and later Dr. Barbour (Copeia, 70, June 23, 1919, p. 48) expressed great surprise to find "... so conspicuous a novelty ... abundant at several stations far to the south of the zone whence it was reported." Consequently, it is a still greater surprise to find that it occurs on Marco Island, Lee County, Florida.

This island is south of Fort Meyers and lies just off the west coast. Mr. Jesse H. Williamson, the collector, writes as follows: "It is about 10 miles long by 5 miles wide, has the town of Marco at the north end and Caxambas at the south." Hence, there can be no question as to the correctness of the locality.

The habitat offered by the island, according to Mr. Williamson, who writes: "My brief notes show

that there were mangroves along the shore, cacti growing on the sandy areas and low hills composed of shells," seems to compare favorably with that of the east coast as described by Dr. Barbour (Copeia, 70, June 23, 1919, p. 49). He writes as follows: "Throughout the lower portions of its range, down the narrow coastal strip between the Everglades and the sea, *woodi* is closely confined to the sterile areas of fine, white 'ridge sand' where the Spruce Pine (*Pinus clausa*) grows."

That the three specimens (one male and two females, Nos. 56168-9-10, Museum of Zool., Univ. of Mich.) are *woodi* there is no doubt. The writer has examined all of the previously recorded specimens and has compared them with those from Marco. They exhibit the long hind toe and the seal brown stripes, so characteristic of the species. The only observable difference being the somewhat greater size of the specimens from the new locality.

To herpetologists interested in methods of dispersal the occurrence of this lizard on Marco Island reopens an old field of speculation. The eastern locality most nearly approaching Marco Island is Hallandale, Dade County. To directly connect the eastern range and habitat with the island seems almost an impossibility. Should specimens be taken from the intervening areas the insular occurrence of *woodi* will be less difficult to explain. However, this area is almost completely everglades and swamps, and should specimens not be found, explanations will probably be made upon a basis of flotation, isolation or transportation by man.

J. PAUL JONES

#### RECORDS OF RARE FISHES FROM THE NORTH PACIFIC DURING 1925

The following fishes have been received by the College of Fisheries and are now in its collection.

1. *Alepisauris ferox*\*. Collected by Mr. J. M.

\* Another Recrrd of *Alepisauris*—Copeia, No. 147, Nov. 19, 1925, p. 73.

Winslow at Grays Harbor, Washington, April, 1925.

2. *Acrotis willoughby*. Rag fish. Taken in a trap of the San Juan Fish Co. on Whidby Island, Puget Sound. This was a female about 6 feet long. Unfortunately it was very much mutilated when it was removed from the trap. It was received Sept. 15, although the fishermen told us that the fish was alive in the trap several days before it died.

Professor Kincaid, of the Zoology Department furnished the writer with the following records. A specimen of *Acrotis* was taken years ago in Puget Sound and presented to the Young Naturalists Society. Another specimen was taken at Gig Harbor, in the southern part of Puget Sound in 1913 or 1914. Neither specimen is now in existence. Other data regarding these specimens apparently is lacking.

Goode and Bean\*\* record the type specimen in Oceanic Ichthyology. U.S.N.M. Cat. No. 39340. Collected by Mr. Chas. Willoughby at Damon, Wash., July 9, 1887. This specimen was a female 63½ inches long with large, well developed roe. It was found on the beach mutilated.

3. *Decapterus*. (Species unknown.) One specimen collected by Mr. Indridson, a student of the College of Fisheries. Caught in a fish trap at Morris Reef, Chichagoff Island, Alaska, Aug. 2, 1925. Several other specimens were seen at the same time. In 1924 a small number of specimens were caught in Chatham Straits, Alaska, in a purse seine. It is suggested that *Decapterus* may have wandered over from the Japanese coast. No material was at hand to completely identify our specimen.

4. *Brama raii*. Pomfret. A salted specimen was brought in by a halibut fisherman fishing northwest of Cape Flattery during September, 1925. No other data is available.

5. *Brama raii*. A frozen specimen was brought to the Ripley Fish Co. by Schooner *Unimak* which was

\*\* Goode & Bean—Oceanic Ichthyology. Page 217.

fishing about 40 miles off Cape Flattery. The fish took a baited hook near the bottom. It was received by the fish company Oct. 2, 1925. The viscera were missing.

6. *Tetronarce californica*. Torpedo. Taken by a halibut schooner fishing about 300 miles northwest of Cape Flattery. Viscera missing. This specimen was a bluish, or slatey color with darker spots over the body. In this respect it differs from the description given by Jordan and Evermann, U.S.N.M. Bull. 47, Page 77, which states that the color is very dark brown. The specimen at hand agrees with this description in all other respects. Our specimen was received in October, 1925.

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